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April 27, 2011

To: House Ag Committee:

Subject: Hunting Swine Legislation

United Deer Farmers of Michigan (UDFoM) supports the Hunting Swine bills, HB 4503, 4504, 4505, and 4506. Some of our members have hunting swine as another hunting opportunity within their operations. The regulatory agency should be Dept of Ag and Rural Affairs. Hunting Swine operations are agriculture, because the MDA will oversee interstate imports, health standards, and food safety. The DNR does not have one oversight duty in their day to day work compared to MDA's duties. The registration fees must be reasonable compared to other agriculture commodities.

UDFoM has been involved with the bills from inception. UDFoM members have worked on the Feral Swine and DNR work group committees to understand state issues. However in most cases we did not agree with the direction of the agencies which was to eliminate the hunting swine operations. Four years we have been talking about what to do, how to eradicate the feral hogs, and only handfuls have been removed from the wild population during that time. With no direction the DNR established support for the invasive species act to put the industry out of business.

These bills will put laws into effect to eliminate swine releases, set fence regulations, and set up how hunting swine operations can operate in Michigan. There are strict penalties for releases, illegal imports, and producers not following the regulations the will make it undesirable to be in business unless the operator is going to follow the regulations and DO IT RIGHT!

Please support these bills so that the industry can move forward and help Michigan in Agri Business move the state forward to becoming great again. These regulations will shore up the operations that are not up to our expectations and eliminate escapes that are being blamed on the hunting swine operations. Let the producers have a chance to show Michigan we can do it right and make a difference.

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